

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2007-41
September 17, 2007

SUBJECT: Detection of *Sirex noctilio* Fabricius (Sirex woodwasp) in Lamoille County, Vermont

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On September 5, 2007, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of a single female *Sirex noctilio* woodwasp in Lamoille County, Vermont. This pest was collected on September 4, 2007, from a trap placed on private property as part of cooperative State and Federal *S. noctilio* survey efforts. This is the first detection of *S. noctilio* in the New England region of the United States.

Cooperative State and Federal *S. noctilio* survey activities will continue throughout early and mid fall of 2007, as will trap tree survey activities being conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. The survey area within Vermont is part of a multi-State detection survey for *S. noctilio* that is ongoing in high-risk areas throughout the United States.

S. noctilio is an exotic species of wood-boring wasp capable of causing significant mortality in healthy species of pine trees. This pest is present in some parts of the United States. To date, *S. noctilio* has been positively confirmed in 28 counties in New York, 5 counties in Pennsylvania, 1 county in Michigan, and most recently 1 county in Vermont. Furthermore, the pest is known to infest areas of the Ontario Province of Canada. APHIS is currently considering its regulatory options to address *S. noctilio*.

PPQ is working with the States of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and unaffected States with significant pine tree resources to prevent the further spread of this harmful forest pest. To this end, APHIS' Center for Plant Health Science and Technology plans to conduct a second pilot study of a promising biological control agent against *S. noctilio* using the nematode, *Beddingia siricidicola*, in the Fall of 2007.

For additional information on *S. noctilio* survey and biological control activities, you may contact National Program Coordinator Lynn Evans-Goldner at (301) 734-7228.

/s/ **John H. Payne** for

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